- 2 -

In the claims:

All of the claims standing for examination are reproduced below with appropriate status indication.

Cancel claims 1-28

29. (Previously presented) A verification engine, comprising:

a network-connected server; and

code executable on the server for performing identity verification of a person for a requester;

wherein the engine accepts a verification request from the requester, the request comprising information identifying at least one network site and information common to the person and the site, interacts with the site using the common information, and returns an indication of verification based upon the interaction.

30. (Previously presented) The engine of claim 1 wherein the common information comprises a username-password pair, and the site interaction comprises logging onto the site using the username-password pair.

31. (Currently amended) The engine of claim 1 wherein then the information identifying the at least one network site comprises a Universal Resource Locator (URL) for the site.

- 3 -

32. (Previously presented) The engine of claim 30 wherein the request comprises information identifying a plurality of sites and information common to individual ones of the sites and the person, and the indication of verification returned is based upon results of interaction with more than one of the sites.

33. (Currently amended) The engine of claim 32 wherein the indication of verification is a ~~relative~~ an indication based on a scale from zero verification to absolute verification.

34. (Previously presented) A method for verifying identity of a person, comprising steps of:

    (a) accepting a verification request by a verification engine, the request comprising information identifying at least one network site and information common to the person and the site, by a verification engine;

    (b) interacting with the at least one network site by the verification engine; and

    (c) returning an indication of verification based upon the interaction.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the common information comprises a username-password pair, and the site interaction comprises logging onto the site using the username-password pair.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein then information identifying the at least one network site comprises a Universal Resource Locator (URL) for the site.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the request comprises information identifying a plurality of sites and information common to individual ones of

- 4 -

the sites and the person, and the indication of verification returned is based upon results of interaction with more than one of the sites.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 37 wherein the indication of verification is a ~~relative~~ an indication based on a scale from zero verification to absolute verification.